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Resource mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by the Association mauritanienne pour le bien-être et le secours de l'enfant et de la mère, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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Non-governmental and civil society organization capacity-strengthening workshop on resource mobilization and enabling environment conducive to poverty eradication

12-13 April 2004, Nouakchott (Mauritania)

Statement by non-governmental organizations of French-speaking least developed African countries

We, the non-governmental and civil society organizations representing civil society of French-speaking least developed African countries, meeting at Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 12 and 13 April 2004, on the occasion of the "regional non-governmental and civil society organization capacity-strengthening workshop on resource mobilization and enabling environment conducive to poverty eradication", organized by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development and the Commission on Human Rights, Poverty Reduction and Integration, in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation, the National Good Governance Programme, the Office of the United Nations Development Programme in Mauritania and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Considering the commitments of the international community in the context of implementing the Millennium Development Goals, the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Considering the debt burden, the unfair nature of international trade, the cumbersomeness of procedures for obtaining financing, the non-compliance with commitments undertaken by developed countries in the context of implementing the Millennium Development Goals, the persistent digital divide and the ineffective use of resources for the benefit of least developed countries and their populations,

Considering the inescapable role of civil society in poverty reduction, in partnership with all the relevant players (Governments, private sector, international organizations, etc.),

Recommend as follows:

In respect of internal resource mobilization

- Relying on and developing our human and natural resources in the first instance: it is necessary to start by preparing an exhaustive inventory/diagnosis of our resources and potentials, ensuring rational management and optimal use of them, with a view to developing and implementing integrated development programmes on this basis;
- Strengthening on-site processing and development of local products;
- Giving priority in resource allocation to socio-economic growth sectors, in accordance with the specificities of each country;
- Better protecting, conserving and restoring our environment and natural resources;
- Promoting networking with a view to capitalizing on our experiences and gaining the maximum benefit from them;

- Developing our human resources by improving living conditions and promoting greater use of local expertise, a special focus on youth, increased involvement of women and improved links between training and the economic needs of our countries;
- Facilitating the access of handicapped persons and including them in the development process;
- Strengthening the capacities of non-governmental organizations and making them a fully integrated actor in good governance and development;
- Promoting development of small business and its access to microcredit.

In respect of external resource mobilization

- Demanding debt cancellation for poor countries and the launch of a Marshall Plan to benefit the sustainable development of the least developed countries;
- Setting up simplified procedures with a view to increasing the capacity to utilize available financing;
- Facilitating the unconditional access of least developed countries to international trade in order to sell local products;
- Reducing the digital divide and making better use of information and communications technologies in the service of development and poverty reduction.

In respect of enabling environment conducive to poverty eradication and sustainable development

- Ensuring at the local, national and international levels good governance in the service of development and peace. This governance must be characterized by transparency, participation, and respect for human rights, the rule of law, the code of ethics and rules of fair play;
- Creating a legal and institutional framework suitable for the participation of non-governmental organizations, respecting the professional code of ethics;
- Developing subregional and regional cooperation and integration for developing countries;
- Strengthening civil society partnership with the United Nations system, Governments and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation organizations, especially in terms of technical cooperation for the benefit of non-governmental organizations, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.